



FEMA

Disaster News

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TOLL-FREE PHONE OR ON-LINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY HURRICANE DENNIS

ATLANTA—A toll-free application phone number or on-line registration is now available for those who suffered property damage or loss in the three Alabama counties declared eligible for by Hurricane Dennis.

Officials from the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), urge residents affected by the storm to call FEMA's toll-free number, **1-800-621 FEMA** (3362), or for speech- and hearing-impaired 1-800-462-7585 (TTY).

In addition, residents with Internet access now have the option to register on the agency's website at <http://www.fema.gov> where valuable recovery information is also available.

In response to a request from Governor Bob Riley, President Bush signed a major disaster declaration which designated the counties of Mobile, Baldwin, and Escambia eligible for federal aid to help meet the recovery needs of stricken residents and business owners.

The declaration makes residents of these counties eligible for a wide range of programs, such as funding for temporary disaster housing assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest disaster loans for individuals and business owners, replacement grants for serious disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance other assistance programs, and disaster unemployment assistance.

"We realize that many Hurricane Dennis applicants may have still been repairing damages from last year's Hurricane Ivan," said Nick Russo, Federal Coordinating Officer. "Recovery specialists will work with each applicant to explain the process and documentation necessary in cases of repetitive damage."

"Don't prejudice your eligibility. Call the application number now," said Bruce Baughman, State Coordinating Officer and director of AEMA. "It's important that all residents get the assistance available to them as quickly as possible."

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When applying, residents need to have the following information available:

- Current phone number
- Address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying
- Social Security number, if available
- General list of damages and losses you suffered
- General financial information
- Bank account coding (optional) to speed up assistance by direct deposit

In addition to assistance to individuals and families, 45 counties are eligible to receive Public Assistance, which allows federal funding of 75 percent of the approved costs for debris removal, emergency protective services and requested federal emergency work related to the disaster. For the first 72 hours of the disaster, however, emergency protective services and requested federal emergency work, excluding debris removal, will be paid at 100 percent federal funding.

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FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following an incident of national significance. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.